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duties with propriety, and turning the current of public opinion and example in favour of virtue: as I am thoroughly persuaded that example, and the direction of public manners hence derived, are of far greater consequence than direct instruction.

On making inquiry I found, that owing to a competition among the employers, wages had risen greatly, and that a bad use was made of their superfluous earnings. It is a pity that they took this wrong direction. The instance mentioned in a late commercial report, of the work people employed at the cotton factory at Rothsay in the Isle of Bute, purchasing a library, and employing their leisure hours in reading, forms a pleasing contrast to the misapplication of time and money by the inhabitants of the Potteries. K.

#### VIRTUE, REASON AND LOVE, AN ALLEGORY.

REASON and Love were the daughters of Virtue; they were both amiable, but Love was more open and possessed less genius than her sister; she was always guided by her and never formed an attachment without her approbation. Her mother's old enemy, the Cyprian queen, had a son whose name also was Love, who often disguised himself under a feigned appearance, but to distinguish him from the daughter of Virtue, he was called Cupid. He inspired mortals with a flame, which not being approved by Reason, soon expired. The two sisters were one day walking, and entering a wood they beheld a sleeping infant: by its side sat Humanity weeping. "Alas," said she, "this beauteous babe was left here no doubt by some unnatural parent, do not let it perish." Love snatched the babe in her arms, saying—"henceforth this shall be my charge." The child grew under the care of Love and imbibed some of her virtues, but she could not withstand the attacks of Cupid who continually presented himself in the shape of her benefactress. In vain Reason expostulated, and Love suffered many painful moments to see her thus led astray. Virtue came one day to see her daughters, who begged she would use her in-

fluence to recall their protégée to her duty. She called to her and spoke as follows. "My dear child, I am displeased with your ingratitude, as well as surprised at your ignorance: my daughters found you a desolate child, they brought you from misery and took care of you, and yet you have not learned to distinguish between them and their worst enemy; Follow the advice of Reason, and you will be safe from his attacks. If you do not, you will feel the ill effects of your conduct; on the contrary if you overcome your weakness, you will have for your reward this crown of flowers; you will resemble in humility the violet which adorns it; and the primrose in modesty; the sweetness of your heart will spread the perfume of the jessamine and lily of the valley. Be spotless like them. The wreath of never fading roses is thornless. I will be glad to bestow it upon you. Know, dear child, when possessed of this crown you will have everlasting happiness and glory. Go endeavour to win it. I wish you success. "With that she embraced her. The heart of the young maid was touched with the words of Virtue, and she turned her thoughts to gain the crown endowed with such precious gifts. FLORELLA.

#### To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

#### OBSERVATIONS ON SOME REMARKS ON STERNE.

SIR,

I THINK that I am a friend to free discussion on all subjects, when conducted with candour and decency. Whether it were the want of these qualities in the communication by "A Reader," in your magazine of December last, in which he drags forth some very improbable anecdotes of Sterne, that made it excite in me so strong a feeling of disapprobation, I cannot positively assert. It is however certain that the paper I have just mentioned, signed "A Reader," his defence of it in February, and lately your "Lover of Simplicity of Character" in the magazine of last month, who has made common cause against poor Laurence—have each of them produced sensations in the per-